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STATINTL

Fairfax County Location For Patent Office Eyed

Looming large in the 1963 program of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce is the relocation of the U.S. Patent Office to the County. Announcement of a March Congressional hearing on the move has aroused great interest locally.

The project began taking shape in 1962 when the Commissioner of Patents announced that the present Patent Office is severely overcrowded.

Anxious to make all existing patent information available to research industry, he envisions a completely computerized system. The new Office

should be outside of Metropolitan Washington and easily accessible.

MADE WELCOME

State Sen. Charles R. Fenwick, learning that a 400-acre site adjacent to CIA at Langley was under consideration as the new site, introduced a bill in the 1962 General Assembly which he hoped would add attractiveness to the Virginia site.

Sen. Fenwick's bill allows all attorneys now practicing patent law in the District to continue to practice such law in Virginia without further examination in the event that the Patent Office moves to Virginia.

"The Patent Office was moved to Richmond during World War II," Sen. Fenwick remarked, "and the lack of such a law presented a great many problems."

Sen. Fenwick considers the Langley site a "natural" for the new Patent Office because the land is already owned by the Commerce Dept. Furthermore, he feels, there would

be less dislocation at this site than at any other.

Gov. Harrison favors the site, reports Sen. Fenwick, and has made representation to Secy. Hodges and to both Virginia senators. He has also stated that he will give priority to widening Rt. 123 from Chain Bridge to Langley if the Patent Office locates there, says Sen. Fenwick.

Sen. Fenwick remarks that the Langley location has also been endorsed by the McLean Business and Professional Assn., although it has been opposed by the McLean Citizens' Assn.

President John E. Bradley of the McLean Citizens' Assn. confirms that the Association feels that Langley is the wrong place. In his personal opinion, the Patent Office should locate in the Reston development or at Tyson's Corner.

RESTON SUGGESTED

"The Patent Office will attract many research industries," says Bradley, "and at Reston there will be room for them. There also will be room there for housing, for stores, and for everything that the employees would need."

"There is also an adequate highway at Reston," he added.

"Besides, having the Patent Office there would give a wonderful boost to the Reston development."

Bradley remarked that although the McLean Citizens' Assn. has never taken a formal position on the Patent Office other than to vote against placing it at Langley, he feels that many McLean residents share his views.

Irv Berman, chairman of the ways and means committee and immediate past president of the County Chamber, agrees that the Langley site is probably too controversial, but

feels that a spot with a suitable access road can be found.

ATTRACTS INDUSTRIES

"We have what they need," he declares. Berman, who is spearheading Chamber efforts to have the Patent Office locate in the County, lists three reasons why the Chamber considers it so important.

"In the first place," he begins, "the Patent Office is an old line institution. It's the only Government office named in the US Constitution. Having it here would mean something to the County."

A second reason is that the Patent Office will bring with it a labor force of 2,400 employees, most of whom are engineers, scientists, and lawyers. The annual payroll is \$20 million.

Most important, the Patent Office would attract a cluster of research industries.

TRAFFIC NO PROBLEM

Berman also remarks that the prevailing traffic pattern is towards Washington in the morning and toward Virginia in the evening. The Patent Office and its associated industrial cluster would create traffic in the opposite direction, thereby balancing vehicle flow.

The House Public Works Committee, chaired by Charles A. Buckley of New York, plans to begin preliminary discussion of Patent Office relocation in the second or third week of the coming month.

CPYRGHT